The Bolshoi Theatre

On 28 March 1776, Catherine II granted the prosecutor, Prince Pyotr Urusov, the “privilege” of “maintaining” theatre performances of all kinds, including masquerades, balls and other forms of entertainment, for a period of ten years. And it is from this date the Moscow`s Bolshoi Theatre traces its history. However the theatre has survived several fires, and the modern building is a child of an architect Joseph Bové. Joseph Bové actually carried out the project of the winner of the contest for the design of the new building of the Bolshoi Theatre –Andrei Mikhailov. But this project was recognized to be too expensive. Bové also revised the design project, while improving it significantly.

The Bolshoi building, which for many years has been regarded as one of Moscow`s main sights, was opened on 20 October 1856, on Tsar Alexander II`s coronation day.

Bolshoi Opera and ballet Theatre is one of the oldest theatres in the world, founded in 1776. On the scene delivered more than 800 works, of which 500original Opera performances for 240 seasons. The first Opera by D. Zorin “Reincarnation” was staged in 1777. M. Sokolovsky`s Opera “Miller, a sorcerer, a deceiver and a matchmaker” was staged in 1779 and was a huge success. The 20th century was a the heyday of the Bolshoi Theatre. Opera was developed as an independent genre under the guidance of A. Verstovsky, who led Bolshoi Theatre for 25years.

Originally the theatre had 29 artists but by 1990 the Bolshoi Theatre consisted of more than 900 artists. Now Opera company has 50 soloists and troupe are constantly replenished by young voices. The now famous Director of the Bolshoi Theatre Dmitri Tcherniakov makes plays all over the world, La Scala, the Metropolitan Opera, in Berlin, in Paris. The building of Bpolshoi Theatre was designed by architects O. Beauvais and A. Mikhailov and conceived as the center of Empire city, glorifying the victory in thePatriotic war of 1812 over Napoleon.

Here sang Shalyapin, Sobinov, Neshdanova, Lemeshev, Kozlovsky, Lisitsian, Obukhov, Maksakova, Vishnevskaya, Arkhipova, Obraztsova, Sinyavsky and many others. Here danced Ulanova, Maximova, Liepa, Vasiliev, Tsiskaridze and many others. The most famous in the world prima ballerina of the Bolshoi Theatre – Maya Plisetskaya. This brilliant woman was born in 1925. She was prima ballerina of the Bolshoi Theatre until 1990.

The Bolshoi Theatre is symbol of Russia for all time. It was awarded this honor due to the major contribution it made to the history of the Russian performing arts.

Exercise 1: Прочтите и переведите текст.

Exercise 2: Составьте к тексту 12 вопросов.

Exercise 3: Подготовьте краткий пересказ текста (12-15 предложений)